

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 238

To commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Oregon Trail.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 1993

Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KOPETSKI, and Ms. FURSE) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

To commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Oregon Trail.

Whereas of all the western trails used by fur traders, gold seekers, missionaries, and emigrants, the Oregon Trail was the most important to the western settlement of this great Nation;

Whereas in the year 1843, the first major wave of humanity left Independence, Missouri, and travelled 2,170 miles in covered wagons across sagebrush, plains, mountains, and rivers to the Willamette Valley in Oregon Territory;

Whereas over 400,000 men, women, and children risked their lives in this greatest migration in American history;

Whereas this Nation was expanded from ocean to ocean, as settlement of the Old Oregon Territory forced Great Britain to relinquish this land to the United States;

Whereas the pioneering spirit of the Oregon Trail emigrants embodies the spirit of the American people;

Whereas Americans have an ever-increasing desire to understand our national heritage;

Whereas in 1978, Congress enacted the National Trails System Act, designating the Oregon Trail as a national historic trail, in recognition of the vital role it played in our Nation's history; and

Whereas in 1993, the American people will seek to rekindle the pioneering spirit of the "Great Migration" and an official Oregon Trail sesquicentennial wagon train will journey across the Nation, arriving in Oregon City, Oregon on September 4, 1993: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That September 4, 1993, is hereby designated as "Na-
 4 tional Oregon Trail Day". The President is authorized and
 5 requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people
 6 of the United States to observe this day with the appro-
 7 priate ceremonies and activities.

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